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ABSTRACT

A telephone survey was undertaken of a random sample of 75 Hispanic-American family groups in Elgin, Illinois. The purpose was to learn the educational needs and characteristics of this and the large Hispanic-American group it represents in the community. Preferred courses were elicited, and the preferred method of instruction was in English with Spanish learning aids, a method used in Elgin Community College's Bilingual Access Program. Morning and evening scheduling of classes were preferred also. Only about two-thirds of the group would require financial aid, and most could provide their own transportation. The average schooling of the group was eight to nine years, most have Mexican and Puerto Rican background, and the average age was 34 years. No further analysis is given. The survey instrument, in Spanish, is appended. (MSE)

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REPORT ON COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

OF THE HISPANIC-AMERICAN POPULATION OF ELGIN

Conducted by:

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Bilingual Access Program
Advanced Institutional Development Program
April 26, 1979

HE 013 187

REPORT ON COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

OF THE HISPANIC-AMERICAN POPULATION OF ELGIN

Elgin Community College
Bilingual Access Program

Project Coordinator: Dr. Art Kotesky

The Bilingual Access Program has completed a Community Needs Survey aimed toward determining educational needs and characteristics of the hispanic-american community of Elgin. The telephone survey was based on a stratified population within the community of Elgin, which includes 645 family groups with hispanic background. This study considers a random sample of 75 family groups. The BAP office appreciated the contribution made by Centro de Informacion who provided the addresses. The results of this survey will be used by the AIDP project to reassess the Bilingual Access Program's educational model and, if it is necessary, to redirect the preplanned milestones within the bilingual component of this five-year project.

The instrument used in the survey is attached, and following are the yielded results and the proposed interpretation.

1. Bilingual-vocational training programs in which you are most interested:

	% interested
Machine Tool Operations	5.3
Welding	14.7*
Culinary Arts	4.0
Restaurant Management	4.0
Plastics Technology	9.3*
Automotive Technology	12.0*
Industrial Maintenance	2.7
Group Child Care	4.0
Dental Assisting	5.3
General Office Assistant	13.3*
Police Science	6.7*
Accounting	6.7*
Computer Operator	5.3
Graphic Design	2.7
Other: Photography	4.0
Body Shop	
ESL	

Interpretation

The college programs that were chosen most often are marked with an asterisk and they are listed in descending order:

Welding
General Office Assistant
Automotive Technology
Plastics Technology
Police Science
Accounting

2. How would you prefer instruction to be delivered in the classroom?

	% chosen
Spanish	12
Spanish with learning aids in English	16
English	16
English with learning aids in Spanish	56

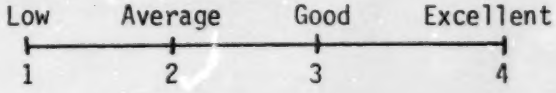
Interpretation

The approach for the delivery of instruction that was chosen most often is that which is conceptualized within the Bilingual Access Program.

3. How would you consider your English ability?

Speaking	Listening and Comprehension	Reading	Writing
2.08	2.3	1.92	1.84

A four-concept Likert scale was used as follows:



Interpretation

The results indicate that the stratified population surveyed has a "listening and comprehension" English ability a little above average. "Speaking" and "reading" abilities could be considered average. "Writing" ability could be considered below average. Because of the results under #2, it can be expressed that the Spanish-speaking community of Elgin is interested in increasing its English ability and has potential for enrolling in college programs such as the Bilingual Access Program.

According to definitions provided by the Illinois Office of Education - Bilingual Section, the "limited English-Speaking Ability" (LESA) individuals that were sampled could be classified as Level III although they could be considered closer to Level IV. The IOE definitions read as follows:

Level III: The individual speaks and understands English with hesitancy and difficulty. With effort and help, the student can carry on a conversation in English, understand at least parts of lessons and follow simple directions.

Level IV: The individual speaks and understands English without apparent difficulty, but displays low achievement indicating some language or cultural interference with learning.

It is believed that the BAP's approach of providing ESL pretraining courses and vocational ESL courses as well as Spanish/bilingual learning aids will encourage LESA adults enrollment at ECC and will facilitate their success. The best results in terms of student achievement and LESA student enrollment could be obtained if COPA/ESL students could be channeled and motivated toward pursuing college training under BAP.

4. Type of schedule that you would prefer?

	% chosen
Morning	14.7
Afternoon	10.6
Evening	74.7

Interpretation

Programs and courses offered under BAP should be scheduled during morning and evening shifts.

5. Would you require financial aid?

	% chosen
Yes	30.7
No	69.3

Interpretation

About 2/3 of BAP's potential students will not require financial aid.

6. Would you have your own transportation means to attend classes at ECC?

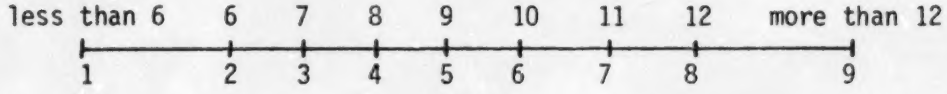
	% chosen
Yes	89.3
No	5.3
Bus	5.4

Interpretation

Most of the potential students will not have difficulty in getting to the college.

7. Years of schooling

Using the following nine-point scale, years of schooling of the sample = 4.68



Interpretation

The average schooling of the population sample equals 8 to 9 years, which indicates that they approach completion of elementary education.

8. Native country

	% chosen
Mexico	60.0
Puerto Rico	26.7
Texas (Mexican origin)	13.3

Interpretation

Most Hispanic citizens of Elgin have Mexican and Puerto Rican background.

9. Approximately, how old are you?

Average age that was computed = 34 years old

Interpretation

Individuals interviewed have great potential for pursuing further schooling and training and for job accomplishment and advancement since the average age of the sample group equals only 34 years of age.

COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

Bilingual Access Program

Elgin Community College

Fono:_____

1. TIPO DE PROGRAMAS DE ENTRENAMIENTO EN LOS CUALES ESTARIA INTERESADO:

- ☐ OPERACION DE MAQUINAS DE TALLER (Machine Tool Operations)
- ☐ SOLDADURA (Welding)
- ☐ ARTES CULINARIAS (Culinary Arts)
- ☐ ADMINISTRACION DE RESTAURATES (Restaurant Management)
- ☐ TECNOLOGIA DE PLASTICOS (Plastics Technology)
- ☐ TECNOLOGIA AUTOMOTRIZ (Automotive Technology)
- ☐ MANTENCION INDUSTRIAL (Industrial Maintenance)

OTRO_____

OTRO_____

- ☐ GUARDERIA INFANTIL (Group Child Care)
- ☐ ASISTENTE DENTAL (Dental Assisting)
- ☐ ASISTENTE DE OFICINA (General Office Assistant)
- ☐ CIENCIA POLICIACA (Police Science)
- ☐ CONTABILIDAD (Accounting)
- ☐ OPERADOR DE COMPUTADORES (Computer Operator)
- ☐ DISEÑO GRAFICO (Graphic Design)

OTRO_____

OTRO_____

2. PREFERENTEMENTE DESEARIA QUE LA ENSEÑANZA EN LA SALA DE CLASES FUERA EN:

- ☐ ESPAÑOL
- ☐ INGLES
- ☐ ESPAÑOL CON MATERIALES DE AYUDA EN INGLES
- ☐ INGLES CON MATERIALES DE AYUDA EN ESPAÑOL

3. COMO CONSIDERA USTED SU CAPACIDAD EN EL IDIOMA INGLES EN CUANTO A HABLAR, ESCUCHAR, LEER Y ESCRIBIR:

	HABLAR	ESCUCHAR	LEER	ESCRIBIR
BAJO	☐	☐	☐	☐
MEDIANO	☐	☐	☐	☐
BUENO	☐	☐	☐	☐
EXCELENTE	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. TIPO DE HORARIO QUE MAS LE ACOMODARIA PARA ESTUDIAR:

☐ MAÑANA

☐ TARDE

☐ NOCHE

5. REQUERIRIA DE AYUDA ECONOMICA PARA FINANCIAR SU MATRICULA:

☐ SI ☐ NO

6. TENDRIA UN MEDIO DE TRANSPORTE PARA ASISTIR A SUS CLASES EN EL COLLEGE:

☐ SI ☐ NO

☐ PODRÍA USAR MOVILIZACIÓN PÚBLICA

7. AÑOS DE ESTUDIO:

Menos de 6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Mas de 12
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. PAIS DE ORIGEN: _____

9. EDAD: _____